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Title: Need to declare the Sardar Sarovar Project as a National Project.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (SURAT): Government of Gujarat is implementing the Sardar Sarovar (Narmada) Project, the largest water resource development project of its type in the country and reportedly one of the three largest projects in the World. The Sardar Sarovar Project is a multi-dimensional project and yields benefits to vast areas of the Western region, covering four states viz. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. The project on completion will facilitate irrigation to over 18 lakh hectares of land covering around 4000 villages, spread over 12 districts of Gujarat, mostly located in drought-prone areas. About 2,25,000 hectares of land in the arid regions of Barmer & Jalore districts in Rajasthan will also get water. The project is also producing 1370 MW (with ultimate capacity of 1450 MW) of hydro electricity, a cheap and environment friendly power, providing stability to the Western Grid and peaking energy benefit is shared among Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Gujarat. It also supplies domestic and drinking water to a large number of villages and urban areas in Gujarat as well as in Rajasthan. The Project will provide a tremendous boost to the National economy by way of increased agriculture production and eco-friendly power. The Government of India on 07.02.2008 has taken a positive step to declare 14 River Projects as National Assets for which it would provide as much as 90% funding. However, Sardar Sarovar Project does not figure amongst these 14 River Projects declared as National Assets. This has resulted in great injustice to Gujarat.

I urge upon the Government of India to declare the Sardar Sarovar Project as a National Project immediately.